852 cut and the nose, ears, and lower lip are pierced if the child was too weak to have it done when he was very small.

852 When the boys are fairly large they eat with their fathers, and the girls eat with their mothers. The parents teach them no sort of manners and they say neither good morning, good evening, nor thank you. They are brought up in such liberty that they do only what they want, obeying their parents at their whim. The parents do not punish them. The mothers mistreat them sometimes but only in a fury or when vexed, and not to correct them.

881 When the girls begin to menstruate, they are made to fast one or two months. So are the boys when they attain their adolescence, and they are slashed with agouti teeth, as we shall indicate when we discuss their drinking parties.

768 When the father dies or leaves his wife all the children stay with
584 the mother and she takes care of them, while the husband does not bother about them any more.

548 There are women among the Caribs who become prostitutes. There
834 are no indecent words among them. Young and old, boys and girls, all call things by their names without any shame whatsoever.

CHAPTER VII

The Huts, Beds, and Pirogues of The Caribs

361 Since they have many enemies who often kidnap them, the Caribs live at Capesterre because there the approach is more difficult and more rarely leeward of the wind for the anchorage of the boats by which they fear being surprised.

631 They are divided into families, and these families are composed of several households which live to gether and form a sort of hamlet under the father of the family. The father's sons and daughters are
342 married and live in their own huts. They first make a large common hall [627] 60, 80, or 100 feet long, more or less, which they call a carbet. Around this large hut they build small ones for individual families.

These huts are made with forked branches stuck in the ground, joined with other pieces of wood which go from one fork to another.

342 On top they put sloping rafters which reach to the ground, and cover everything with palm leaves or reeds. One can see nothing inside except by the light of the fire or by the hole through which they enter, which is 2 or 3 cubits high. The women clean the huts, and the boys [336] clean the carbet and the space around it. During the day the men eat and talk in the carbet, and at night they retire to the small huts to sleep.

513 Their hammocks are nothing more than large pieces of woven 252 cotton which the women make on a sort of draper's loom, 3 or 4 ells [286] wide and 5 or 6 feet long. They leave little ribbons on the two ends, to which they attach stronger ribbons made of pita, and then attach these in turn to a larger cord also made of pita. They hang the beds by means of these cords in the middle of their huts to two forks and they sleep gently and comfortably. They make small and large ones. They carry the hammocks wherever they must spend the night. The French use them commonly. Since these hammocks are easily portable, they do not clutter up the houses, and they fold easily and are stowed away conveniently. Some are brought to us from the mainland (besides those we trade with the Caribs for); the English and Portugese also make them. The Caribs paint theirs in Moresque [531] patterns with a black that never fades. Those of the mainland savages are also painted similarly.

501 After talking of their lodgings and beds, a word must be said of the boats they use at sea. We call them pirogues, they name them kanaoa [canaoa]. These are made from large trees which they hollow out with fire, as well as with hatchets, and finish with adzes. They then shape the outside in the form proper for navigation. Because they are low, they build them up by attaching boards all around with liana, which serves them [637] as cord, and caulk them with folded mahot bark. They tie poles across to serve as benches while they row. They make these boats in all sizes. Those they call canaoa are what we call pirogues and are never less than 25 or 30 feet and go up to 50 or 60 feet. Others, which we call canoes and they kouliala, are of all sizes under 25 feet, some so small as to carry only one man for fishing. The canaoa are not pointed like those of the French, for they cut off the end and seal it with a board. They carry up to 40 and 50 persons with baggage. Big ones use two sails, and small ones a single sail. They row with small oars about like

5. Settlements and Boats

361 The Caribs have only a very small clearing at the place where they live, which is a place for the carbet and some smaller houses around it. This is planned so that the Europeans will not be able to know about them or capture them by surprise. It is for the same reason that the greater part of them are established on the windward side of the island, because here the waves are rough and terrain is high and it is difficult to gain access to it. Nevertheless, they are always near rivers because they would not be able to forego water either for drinking or for bathing. [279] There is a yard between the carbet and the other houses. Each one cleans the area of it in front of his own house. After supper they gather and talk around the fire, which they make if the evening is cool, until they say to each other "let us go in and sleep." On the next day they do not complain about the evening dew and they have not caught colds. [85] They [364] take away fishbones, peels, and their refuse from the tables, and throw them far away, because such things breed chiggers. [303]

344 "We have to wrap cassava in thick leaves in the middle of the carbet." The carbet is the room, market place, work shop, storage place, dining hall, and dormitory, and the community house of the Caribs. It is almost like an oval cradle. Its height [sic] is sixty feet and its width is twenty feet. It is built plainly, but with all the care and utility one might imagine. The entrances are toward the center of the house, and are four diametrically opposed holes. These entrance holes are only four feet high. There are no other doors or windows, and there are no pegs or nails. There is only one storey and no chambers. There are no divisions nor hindrances inside the carbet which would impede 12 people walking side by side in a row. At the height of 7 feet there are beams 10 feet long to hang 100 to 120 cotton [513] hammocks, where the Caribs rest peacefully in perfect harmony without quarrels or noise. Women rarely enter this house except to serve the men. [476]

● 342 The Caribs have thatched houses (mánna) built a little like those of our peasants except that the roof is made of the upper part of reeds or of palmetto leaves which extend to the ground. They are oval in shape and lack windows entirely. In place of a door there is only a

342 hole through which they are only able to enter by stooping. The inside is never encumbered by beams and forked posts to support the house. Rooms, entrance hall, and plank floor are also absent. [354]

342 824 The cachíbou is a very smooth leaf, long as the arm and more than a foot wide, and it is quite rigid. The Caribs cut them and expose them to the sun, which causes them to harden. Next they fold them at the middle and arrange them over a reed split in two, overlapping every four inches. They attach them with mahot or some cords on the lath. This is their substitute for roof tile. This covering lasts them almost two years. It is beautiful from within, for you would assume it had been painted. This leaf also serves as their parasol, and it is used in their baskets, which are always double, being placed between the two layers to keep water from penetrating.

342 [97] The boulénum are two big beams of wood on the inside of the roof. The cross rafters are fastened to them. The upper part of the house rests on notches made in these beams, which support the whole building. There are neither posts nor forks in the middle of the house so that one may walk about inside as in a market place, easily eight or ten men abreast. [90] Taboütitali are two little sticks which are tied together and which hold up two opposing rafters. The half reeds are on the outside. This tightens the leaves so that the wind will not blow them away. [115] The ticoüloubi are the poles which are fitted lengthwise in the pirogue and support the planks on which one sits. They are also the encircling roof supports in the carbet. [461] With the top of the manboülou reed they cover the roofs of their houses. [351] The Caribs use monochíali leaves to cover their houses. The French call these reeds ox tongues. [361]

There are old carbets which have only small forked posts and poles left and some banana leaves on them as a protection against the heat of the sun. [444] When they are working high in the mountains and are not able to return the same day they say, "I sleep in my garden." [54] "Enclose us, surround us with palisades for fear of our enemies." [187]

484 When the Caribs go to some other islands they know the camping places. They ordinarily choose locations where there is material for sheds, so they can set them up more easily, and where there are crabs 826 or reefs. At these places game and fish are the most abundant and the easiest to obtain. [280] When the Caribs camp they set up some

301 two plates. These leggings are very much prized by the girls and [354] women because they are an infallible mark of their freedom; the slave women never wear them. Nevertheless, they are inconvenient and painful; when water gets these leggings they tighten so much that the women sometimes weep because of the pain it causes them.

9. Carbets, Houses, Beds, Pirogues, and Canoes

342 Concerning the dwellings, the houses or habitations of the Caribs, each family forms a settlement. The father of the family has his house, where he lives with his unmarried children [the young unmarried men]. The wives and all their unmarried children [boys and young unmarried women] live in their own houses around that of the father. These houses have no ceiling under the roof and are separated into two or three rooms. One is used for eating, another for sleeping and to receive guests who wish to visit them. Some have a special room where they put all the caconnes, that is to say, precious things like bows, arrows, clubs, axes, billhooks, and knives.
415 They also add their hammocks and their small baskets, where they keep their mirrors, scissors, necklaces, and chains of glass beads--- in a word all their ornaments.

The other utensils used for eating and drinking are kept in the kitchens. These consist of small earthenware jars; canaris, which are large jars used in making ollicou; and some other small vessels which they call coui. The coui are made of calabashes.

352 The rest of their furniture consists of small three-legged stools, carved from a single block of wood. They also use small tables with four wooden legs called matoutou, woven from latan [palm] leaves and reeds.

[341] Their gardens, where they plant provisions, are in the woods
344 separated from the place where they ordinarily live. In the midst of the houses there is a large common house [men's house] which they call a carbet. The carbet is always sixty to eighty feet long. They are made by putting large posts eighteen to twenty feet high into the ground. The upper ends of these posts are forked, and they lay a latan [palm] or some other very straight tree on these forks. Upon

5: Rouse E-4 (no date) 1948 ST13 Callinago ST13 (1650-1700)

methods of planting and of preparation as the *Arawak*. The kitchen utensils, however, were more varied. The *Carib* made their graters from coral, from thorny branches, or by inserting wood or stone splinters in a plank. They removed the juice in a cylindrical basketry strainer (pl. 94), hung with a weight from a tree; sifted the flour in a basketry sieve; and baked the cake on either a stone or a clay griddle with the aid of a wooden spatula. [241] 415

Corn, sweetpotatoes, yams, beans, and peppers also were cultivated, the corn being made into bread as among the *Arawak*. The sweetpotato and the yam were particularly important; they were planted as cuttings after a rain. When full grown the tubers were roasted or boiled and eaten with a sauce like that made for meat. The roots and leaves were used as a seasoning. 241 252

The *Carib* ate fruits of various kinds, including the banana (post-Conquest), the plantain, the guayba, the papaya, and the pineapple. Bananas were cooked in sugared water; both they and the other fruits were also pounded in a mortar to make a thick paste. Sugarcane, acquired from the Spaniards, was boiled in water or was chewed fresh, and honey was mixed with water to make a drink. 252

Eating.—Except for the morning meal taken soon after fixing their hair and bodies, the *Carib* ate irregularly. Men sat on low stools in the carbet (men's house) and were served by women on little tables (matoutou), covered with leaves. Later the women ate by themselves in the kitchen. 264

VILLAGES AND HOUSES

Settlements.—*Carib* villages were located in the areas least favorable for surprise attacks by the enemy, being usually on the windward side of the island and in an open space upon a rise in the land. Each village was near a stream, which provided drinking water and was used daily for bathing. The villages were moved frequently, after a death, sickness, or some other disagreeable incident. Each was small; it consisted of a carbet (men's house), various smaller houses for the women, and several storage platforms. These structures were arranged irregularly around a small plaza where the people were accustomed to sit by the light of a fire at night. 361

Houses.—The carbet (taboüi) was an oval building, which later became rectangular, about 60 feet (18 m.) long and 20 feet (6 m.) wide. To construct it the *Carib* set into the ground forked posts 10 feet (3 m.) high and lashed across beams to the tops of these posts. They laid on poles, extending from the ground at one end to the peak of the house at the other; bound other poles horizontally over the first set; and thatched the whole down to the ground with palm leaves. The floor was of dirt and had a hearth in the center. There were no partitions; the only openings were a door no more than 4 feet (1.2 m.) high in the middle of each side and end. 342

5: Rouse E-4 (no date) 1948 ST13 Callinago ST13 (1650-1700)

342 Men slept in this structure; they and the boys ate, worked, and passed the time of day there. Women, however, entered only to serve the men.

Women's houses were each about half the size of the carbet. Their construction was the same, except that each had only a single doorway and was provided with a reed partition separating the room where the women and children slept from the kitchen.

The storage platforms were built on piles and roofed, but open on the sides.

352 **Household furniture.**—Mats were used to cover the doorways of the houses. Within, hammocks were the chief articles of furniture (pl. 93). Made of a network of cotton thread, they were 6 feet (1.8 m.) long and 12 feet (3.6 m.) wide. The ends were tied by cords to two posts in the wall of the dwelling; often the cords extended along the sides of the hammock as decoration. Some hammocks were painted red or black. They had a small packet of ash at each end, which was believed to make them last longer. Small wooden tables and stools were used in many houses; some had cabinets in which to store weapons and utensils. The rafters also were a favorite storage place.

[434] When on canoe trips the *Carib* made temporary shelters by erecting posts, to which they attached hammocks, covering them with a roof of palm leaves.

DRESS AND ADORNMENT

291 **Clothing, hairdress, and toilet.**—Like the *Arawak*, the *Carib* had no clothing except for a small cotton apron worn by women over their genitals (pl. 93). In historic times this was ornamented with beads. Every 302 morning men washed themselves and sat in the carbet while the women combed their hair, anointing it with oil, and painted their bodies red. The women then dressed themselves in the same manner. The paint, urucú (roucou), was made by mixing oil with boiled and ground seeds from the bixa plant. It was brushed over the whole body, partially for decoration and partially as a protection against insects. On ceremonial occasions men also used black paint made from genipa; they had their wives paint it in streaks over their faces and bodies, using tiny hair brushes.

[332] Rich black hair was considered a sign of beauty. Both men and women wore it long, cutting only the part above the eyes. They let it hang free or sometimes bunched part of it on the back of the head, tying it with a cotton cord and decorating it with tail feathers of the macaw (arara). Only slaves had their hair cut short in the *Arawak* manner. Men plucked their beards, which they considered a deformity.

304 **Deformation and scarification.**—A mother flattened both the forehead and the back of her child's head. The *Carib* pierced the ears, nasal septa, and lower lip for the insertion of fishbones, feathers, stone pendants, or pieces of wood, stone, or shell. They used the latter only temporarily,

5: Rouse E-4 (no date) 1948 ST13 Callinago ST13
(1650-1700)

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PLATE 93.—Carib Indians and artifacts. (After Sheldon, 1820, pl. 13.)

[p. 564 A]

5: Rouse E-4 (no date) 1948 ST13 Callinago ST13
(1650-1700)

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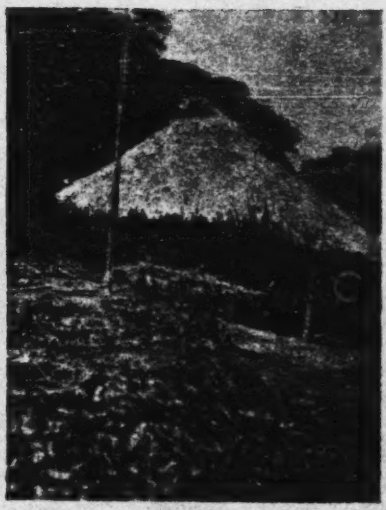

PLATE 98.—**Carib descendants.** *Top: Carib* house and basketmakers, St. Vincent. *Bottom: Carib* houses, Arima, Trinidad. (After Fewkes, 1907, pls. 8, 7.)

[p. 564 F]

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

serted (fig. 12). It is known as an "attrappe-la-main," or "wife leader." 857

They also make two toy figures from strands of split coconut palm. One, accordeonlike and sometimes several feet long, they call a "musique" (fig. 13) (Roth found these among the Guiana Indian children, who call it a rattle); the other, known as "soufflette" (or whistle) strangely resembles in miniature the large trumpets of spirally rolled manjagua bark from the Rio Uaupes, described by Roth.

FIGURE 12.—"Attrappe-la-main" or "wife leader."

Perhaps one reason why the Carib child does not "waste" energy in play is that he or she is expected at an early age to exert himself or herself to help the parents with their tasks: Carrying up water from the river, running errands, and so on. Later they work in the provision grounds, catch crayfish, and cut or carry louarouman from the woods for basket making—and all this in conjunction with supposedly daily attendance at school. I have seen girls of 12 sent off with a nine-hand bunch of bananas (70 pounds or more) on their heads, carry it without any rest over 10 miles of rough hilly road, and return some hours later with a heavy basket load of provisions. Nor is this to be regarded as the result of unkindness: the parents impose much harder tasks upon themselves, and are ignorant of the requirements of immaturity. What wonder, then, if such premature labor, often coupled with an insufficiency of sleep and nourishment, result in a small-statured race who mature late (the average age for puberty in girls is 15) and grow old early? The Carib children of Dominica undoubtedly owe such health and strength as they possess to a sound stock, to their daily baths in the river pools, and to the sun's rays that constantly embrace their little bodies; but I very much doubt whether their lot, today at any rate, is as enviable as Ober supposed it to be.

FIGURE 13.—"Musique."

SHELTERS, HUTS, AND HOUSES

Temporary shelters, known generally as ajoupas or, among the Carib, as karbé, are often built in the woods or elsewhere where there 342

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

is work to be done. Two, three, or more young saplings are cut and their ends stuck in the ground, or simply bent over to form what may be called the rafters. These are joined at their free ends by one or more tie beams and attached to two uprights sunk in the ground. The whole is covered with the leaves of the ailes mouche (*Carludovica plumieri*) or, where available, of yanga (?).

Until recent times the usual but now rare dwelling of the Dominica Caribs is known as the muinan (French spelling), the koubouya of the

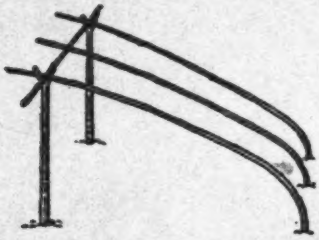

FIGURE 14.—Scaffolding for karbé before covering.

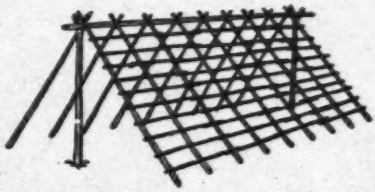

FIGURE 15.—Muinan before thatching.

Roucouyenne Indians. This is a simple structure consisting of a ridge pole supported by a main post at either end (fig. 14). The rafters, crossed by rods (gaulettes) to which the thatch is tied, reach to the ground. The whole is covered with cane straw, vetiveria, or, more rarely, with the leaf of the yattaghu palm [1] (*Syagrus* sp.). The lianas, called mibi and calabouli, are used to tie the thatch to the thatching rods, which are made of wood or bamboo. An interesting thing about these muinans (fig. 15), of which several are still in use as dwellings, is that they were commonly built double, one within the other, after the style of a Carib pannier, in order better to withstand storms.

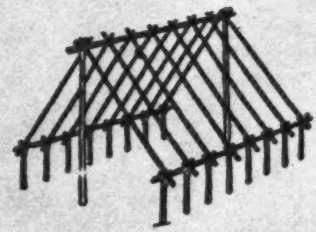

FIGURE 16.—Structure for kitchen.

Most kitchens in the reserve (in the West Indies the kitchen is always in an outhouse, even in the homes of the whites), though curiously enough few dwellings, take the form of an improved muinan, raised on posts and runner beams several feet from the ground, the sides boarded in, and the roof covered with coconut or yattaghu palm thatch (fig. 16). This type of house appears to correspond to the taboui of Cayenne.

The most common type of dwelling house today—though only in the last 15 to 20 years has it become so—is the regularly built hut, raised some 2 to 4 feet from the ground on piles, with flooring and

[1] The palm called "yattaghu" or "yattahou" has a leaf similar to the glen-glen, no spines, and corresponds to Duss, *Syagrus* in every respect except that the nuts are only half the size he mentions.

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
ST13 Callinago ST13

walls of hardwood boards and roof of shingles (preferably from ca- 342
conier: *Ormosia dasycarpa*, or bois lézard: *Vitex divaricata*). This type of hut is found, with variations, all through the islands, and does not appear to be of native origin. The wood is usually cut and hewn into shape by the future owner, the foundations dug with the help of friends, the house raised (or mounted) with the assistance of a professional carpenter (who may take 25 or 30 shillings for his work), and the roof covered in 1 day at an almost ceremonious gathering of by no means abstemious helpers and friends.

The following are among the commoner woods employed by the 342
Caribs in house building: 824

STAKES AND PILES.—Mangle rouge (*Rhizophora mangle* L.) and mangle blanc, acouquoi (*Bucida buceras* L.).

BOARDS.—Bois bander (*Chione glabra*), bois rivière (*Chimarris cymosa*), bois sept ans (*Melicoma* sp.), noyer (*Zanthoxylum tragodes*).

POSTS.—Balata (*Mimusops* sp.), carapite ("black-heart," possibly *Amanoa caribbaea* (?), not to be confused with carapate).

RAFTERS.—Angelin (*Andira inermis*), caconier (*Ormosia dasycarpa*).

LATHS.—Bois rivière (*Chimarris cymosa*).

BEAMS.—Bois lézard (*Vitex divaricata*), laurier caca (*Gustlarda parvifolia*), laurier rose (a sweet-smelling wood of reddish hue, large tree. Not the so-called rose laurel of other islands).

BASKETRY

Together with the building of dugout canoes, basketry now consti- 285
tutes the Caribs' main industry and source of revenue. Apart from those destined for sale, they make other articles for domestic use of a superior quality, and which seldom are seen outside the reserve.

The materials used today, and the manner of their preparation, are as follows:

(1) Larouman or, more correctly, l'uarumâ (*Technosiphon arouma*), 285
the itirite of the Guiana Indians. A slender, palmlike reed with long 824
spatulate leaves, attaining from 12 to 15 feet in height. Cut and tied in bundles of 70 to 100 stems and brought down to the coast, where it is spread out on the beach to dry in the sun for several days. Without this process, during which it acquires an agreeable red russet color, the stems would soon become brittle and unworkable. Some of them are subsequently steeped for a couple more days in "mudholes" by the riverbank, where they take on a fine shiny black. The blackened stems are, however, less strong than those not so treated. Before use, each stem is split in four or six strands which are then drawn between a knife blade and the finger until the pith is removed and they have been made fine enough for the work in view. If white strands are wanted, as for the linings of Carib panniers, they may be obtained by scraping the outer surface of red strands, or merely by laying these inner side uppermost.

6: Taylor E-5 (1930-1937) 1938
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a, Hut in the Reserve. b, Rehuahuanis with bamboo for beaker. c, Launching a canoe. d, Mixed types: Mother and child.

[p. 157-8]

9: Ober N-5 (1876-1878) 1895
ST13 Callinago ST13

In the island of St. John are some rocks covered with incised figures, which are called the "Carib rocks,"—rude petroglyphs without meaning; but undoubtedly of aboriginal origin. Throughout the Greater Antilles, I cannot recall any of these petroglyphs, and they seem to be peculiar to the Carib area, other and finer ones being found in the island of St. Vincent. The descendants of the Caribs to-day are confined to two islands only, Dominica (which was the first land sighted by Columbus on his second voyage) and St. Vincent, the former between latitude fifteen and sixteen north, and the latter in latitude thirteen. They are described in my book on these islands,[1] published fifteen years ago, and I will not repeat my descriptions, except to state that there are some twenty families of pure blood remaining in Dominica, and perhaps half a dozen in St. Vincent. There may be three hundred in each island, but so intimately mixed with the negroes that their distinguishing features are nearly obliterated. They dwell on the windward or eastern coast of either island, in each having a portion of land assigned them, which they cultivate in common, or which, at least, is not owned in severalty. They subsist upon the fruits of their agricultural labors and the sea, eked out with the scant products of the chase, consisting mainly of small birds, agoutis, and iguanas. Their huts are almost as primitive as at the time of discovery, being constructed of palm logs and thatched with palm leaves. In Dominica most of them speak the French patois (a legacy from the former owners of the island), and in St. Vincent, English; being Catholics in the former and Church of England in the latter, as to their religious faith. All vestiges of their native religion have apparently disappeared, although they still have a belief in the jumbies and wood-spirits of the negroes. They are to-day gentle and easily managed, showing no trace of the warlike spirit of their ancestors; in shape they are robust, well-formed, with

[1] See "Camps in the Caribbees," by F. A. Ober. Boston, 1879.

9: Ober N-5 (1876-1878) 1895
ST13 Callinago ST13

The Caribs have an ancient and natural language, such as is peculiar to them, and also a bastard speech, with foreign words, chiefly Spanish, intermixed. Among themselves they always use the natural language, in conversing with Christians the bastard speech. . . . The women also have a different speech from the men. . . . It hath been observed that the men are less amorous than the women; both are naturally chaste; and when those of other nations look even earnestly at them, and laugh at their nakedness, they were wont to say to them, 'you are to look on us only between both the eyes.' . . . Yet, it must be confessed that some have degenerated from that chastity, and many other virtues of their ancestors, the Europeans having taught them many vices,—to the perpetual infamy of the Christian name. . . They are great lovers of cleanliness, bathing every day; are generous, hospitable and honest. . . . It is also a manifest truth, confirmed by daily experience in America, that the holy sacrament of baptism being conferred on these savages, the devil never beats or torments them afterwards as long as they live.[1]

"The Carib boys were compelled to pierce their food suspended from a tree with an arrow, before they could eat it. . . . They are said to have used poisoned arrows, dipping them in what must have been the urrari poison, obtained from Guiana. . . . Like many natives, they eradicated the beard and the hair on other parts of the body. . . . They compressed the skulls of new-born infants; and a hatred of the Arrowaks was instilled. . . . Their cabins were built of poles fixed circularly in the ground and drawn together at the top, covered with palm leaves, and in the centre of each village was a building larger than the others for public assemblage.

"The Caribbeans are a handsome, well-shaped people, of a smiling countenance, middle stature, having broad shoulders

[1] See Davies's "History of the Caribby Islands." London, 1666.

hammocks or smoking, crouched around their huts and appearing to meditate; they rarely speak and let their wives take care of all the work. Formerly they demanded absolute submission from them and did not permit them to take their meals with them. In the course of our trip, while we were passing in front of a Carib hut, we saw a young and strong man walking about calmly, surrounded by four children, the youngest of which was in his arms, while the women of the house busied themselves outside with the hardest work.

The Carib dwellings are rectangular huts more or less raised above the ground, with walls made of mixed straw of bamboo or some other wood and covered with palm leaves; sometimes they have over hangs as shelter against the sun. These huts differ little from what they were formerly, according to descriptions of them which the first observers left us, and at that time they called a group of huts a carbet(2).

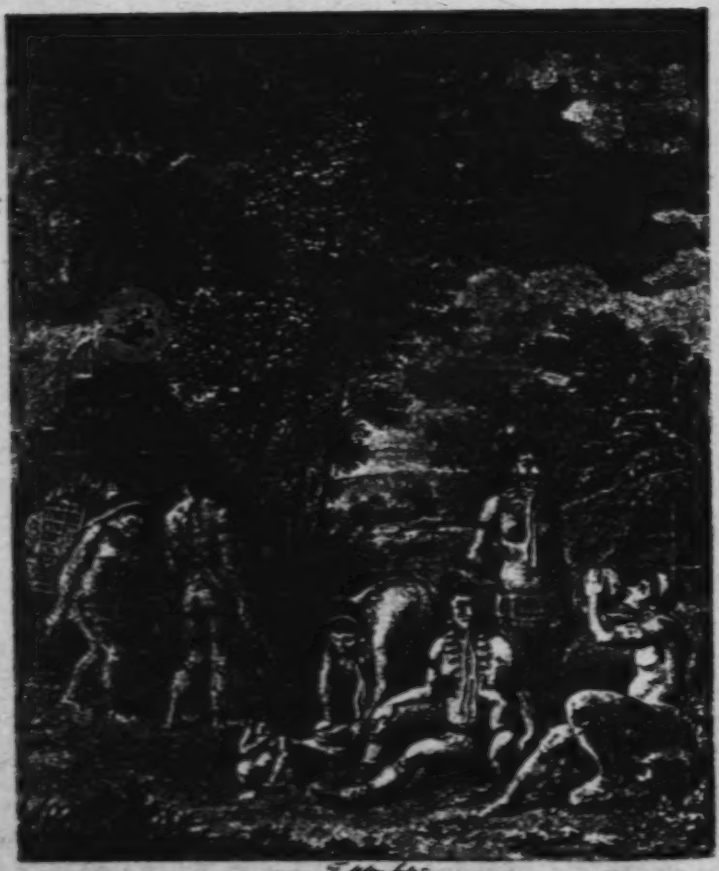
2. This term has perpetuated itself in the French Antilles and in Martinique one still finds the village of Carbet and the peak of Carbet which dominates this settlement.

of which one was most important, in which an entire family lived. The house of the present Carib chief is of a more elaborate design, and the roof is of wood instead of thatch; inside it consists of four rooms, each containing a bed and chairs.

Personal property is usually simpler and consists of "hammocks," a word of Carib origin used in most European languages. The hammocks are made by the women out of cotton cultivated near the hut; they are braided and not woven, and existed even at the time of the conquest. They were dyed red with roucou, and according to Father Labat, there were some larger than others, called marriage hammocks, braided by mothers for their daughters when they were married, but in which two people never slept together. The household utensils are gourds of different sizes, vases of baked earth and skullfully woven baskets. The Carib basket serves the natives as chest and cupboard; /138/ it is made with the greatest care of reeds painted in different colors, and is so well constructed that water cannot pass through, and the cover of the basket fits the bottom so well that the heaviest rains cannot dampen the contents. Its shape is that of a rectangular parallelepiped twice as long as it is wide. It is very light, and the

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

301
291
482
516
342
415



A FAMILY of CHARAIBES, drawn from the Life in the ISLAND of St VINCENT.

Fig. 5 – A Carib family, drawn from life, in the Island of St.Vincent (From an early engraving). [opposite p. 523]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

HODGE. These voucher specimens of the plants used by the Dominica Caribs have been determined and deposited at the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University. Certain duplicates may also be found in the herbaria of the Bailey Hortorium, the New York Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Massachusetts, and the British Museum (N. H.). 128

IV. CATALOGUE OF THE KNOWN ECONOMIC PLANTS OF THE DOMINICA CARIBS

8241

CYATHEACEAE. TREE-FERN FAMILY.

Cyathea arborea (Linnaeus) J. E. Smith, Mem. Acad. Turin 5.: 417. 1793.

Fougère, Tree-Fern. — *amámei*.

A common tree-fern of the West Indies, Mexico and Venezuela. In Dominica this beautiful species is a weed of open wet slopes at lower and middle elevations where it often forms extensive colonies on abandoned cultivations.

The woody caudex is dried by the Caribs and used as a tinder. [372] Since the wood is peaty it burns readily for long periods and so is used to carry fire from place to place. The spores are said to [789] be used as a «charm», and are gathered by spreading a sheet beneath a fertile plant «on Midsummer Night».

Specimen citation: 6, 7, 2444, 2880.

PANDANACEAE. SCREW-PINE FAMILY.

Pandanus utilis Bory, Voy. 2: 260. 1804.

Screw-Pine. — *bárakus* («ungual»?).

A native of Madagascar, sometimes cultivated in the West Indies. This species has become naturalized in several coastal areas (e. g. Marigot, Hatton Garden, etc.) of Dominica.

The septa of the leaves are prepared in the same way as latanier (*Cocothrinax martinicensis*), and are used by the Caribs [285] for plaiting hats and baskets and occasionally as thatch for huts [342] or shelters.

Specimen citation: No herbarium material collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

GRAMINEAE. Grass Family.

Andropogon bicornis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1046. 1753.
Anatherum bicorne Beauvois, Ess. Agrost. 128. 1812.
Panache.

A species found from southern Mexico to Brazil and throughout the West Indies, usually on grassy slopes.

Panache is employed by the Carib as a second-rate thatching material while the hairs of the raceme are sometimes used to stuff pillows.

Specimen citation: 3166, 3352.

Bambusa vulgaris Schrader ex Wendland, Coll. Pl. 2: 26. t. 47. 1810.
Bambusa sieberi Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 528. 1864.
Common Bamboo. — *kuáma* (« plume », « panache »).

Common bamboo, a native of the Old World, is now widely planted in the tropics of both hemispheres. In Dominica the beautiful arching plumes of this grass are familiar especially along roads and water courses at lower and middle elevations.

Wherever it is grown bamboo has a number of native uses. The Creoles of Dominica construct fishpots from the split stems, and the canes themselves with the septa removed often serve as temporary water pipes.

The Carib Indians dry the stems indoors and then split them into fine strands which are woven into *sambura*, a kind of round basket with a narrow mouth used for the catch made while fishing from the coastal rocks or in the rivers. Except for its shape the *sambura* is of similar construction (a round radial type) to baskets made of *mibi* (*Anthurium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*), liane pomme (*Passiflora laurifolia*), and the like. Bamboo is employed also in fashioning a strong type of garden basket and, as a substitute for cotton thread, in the making of *kali*, the Carib and local name for a kind of fishpot or landing net used to catch flying fish.

Specimen citation: 174.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

abortive fruits of *Theobroma cacao*, z'herbes balié, and the like) to promote a luxuriant growth. The fanlike blades or « heads » are used for thatch and the stems as thatching rods, screens, and lattice doorways. The ashes of burnt leaves are mixed with the sap from stems of balisier (*Heliconia* spp.) and juicy pulp of the genip (*Genipa americana*), and then are rubbed on the bodies of those suffering from yaws (*framboesia*).

Specimen citation: 3197.

Paspalum laxum Lamarck, Tabl. Encycl. 1: 176. 1791.
Paspalum glabrum Poiret in Lam. Encycl. 5: 30. 1804.
Chien-Dent.

This is a common coastal grass to be found in sandy or rocky soils throughout the West Indies.

Caribs place the whole plant in water which is then given as a drink to infants in order to hasten teething.

Specimen citation: 3309.

Saccharum officinarum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 54. 1753.
kánise (from Spanish *caña*).

A native of southeast Asia cultivated in the tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres.

The growing of sugarcane was initiated in the West Indies early in the sixteenth century and the plant is now the most important product of many of the islands. Although unimportant in Dominica sufficient cane is grown to supply local demands.

Patches of sugarcane are to be found in the Carib Reserve and nearly every hut has in its surrounding yard a primitive single-post-and-lever-type of cane press with which to express the « vesou » or juice. The latter is used in place of refined sugar in cocoa, coffee, and for general cooking.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Vetiveria zizanioides (Linnaeus) Nash in Small, Fl. Southeast. U. S. 67. 1903.
Vetiveria arundinacea Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 559. 1864.
Andropogon zizanioides Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 79. 1903.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^X

Aiphanes sp.

Grigri. — *rókri.*

An unidentified palm of this genus is known from the windward coast of Dominica where it grows at elevations slightly greater than those at which *Acrocomia aculeata* is found. The Dominica grigri may well represent an undescribed species [9].

The Island Caribs put the grigri palm to the same uses as the glou-glou. The trees are chopped down to obtain the edible fruits and nuts.

Specimen citation: 126 (T).

Coccothrinax martinicensis Beccari (?)[10], Webbia 2: 324. 1907.

Latanier. — *alatani, harâta.*

A rather small fan-palm limited to the lower coastal bluffs and cliffs of Dominica and Martinique. Apparently its constant use by the Indians has caused it to become quite scarce in these isles, although it is said to still occur on the bluffs and cliffs below the village of Vieille Case, and on Pointe Daniel in the southeastern part of the island.

[411]

Bows were formerly made by the Caribs from the wood of latanier. The broad fan-like leaves are used to cover huts and shelters, and are also fashioned into brooms. The septum of the mature petiole is split in two and then is woven, before it becomes dry, into a sort of game basket or sack called *jokom*. The people of Penville (where there are also a few Caribs) also weave bags or sacks (in which grated manioc is pressed) from this petiolar material.

[342 412]

[285]

[252]

Specimen citation: no authentic herbarium material collected.

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[9] Although species of this genus have been recorded from Martinique and St. Vincent (on the latter island the palm is still very common), authentic material from Dominica has, until now, been lacking. Nevertheless the grigri of Dominia has been mentioned by such writers as Breton (7), DuTertre (15), and Oexe (39). Today the Dominican grigri palm is found only in very wild situations. The herbarium material is still insufficient for specific determination.

[10] The herbarium material in hand is not ample for a conclusive determination. However, this is the only species of this genus known from the near vicinity (e. g. Martinique). At the present time other fan palms representing various genera are growing under cultivation near houses in the Carib Reserve, and have probably been introduced via the Botanic Gardens at Roseau.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824 **Cocos nucifera** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1188. 1753.
Coconut Palm. — *pálumu* (from Spanish *palma*).

The coconut palm is grown on all tropical coasts. Its center of origin is controversial although the plant is probably native to the Old World. Hundreds of uses are recorded for various parts of this plant, which is considered the most valuable of all palms. DU TERTRE (15) records the species as established in the French Antilles in the seventeenth century.

Coconuts are an important product of Dominica and several estates have been devoted to their culture. The Creoles utilize the green « jelly nuts » as a refreshing drink and the flesh of the mature fruits for food and oil. The husks supply a fiber, coir, employed for local cordage.

Coconuts are cultivated by the Island Caribs who use the large leaves for thatch, and the endosperm as a source of food and oil. The latter is obtained by grating and boiling the flesh of the nuts.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey, Gent. Herb. 4: 375. 1940.
Palmiste, Palmiste franc, Manicol. — *uése.*

A tall slender palm endemic to Dominica and common throughout moist mountain forests, chiefly at middle elevations.

Often felled by Caribs and other woodsmen for the sake of the palatable coeur-palmiste (« cabbage » or « heart ») which they extract from the cylindrical crown of the tree, and which is eaten either raw or boiled. The leaves of young specimens, folded and plaited, are used for thatch. Ridge-caps (or covers) for dwellings are sometimes made from the wood of this palm by merely splitting the trunk in two. The rotted trunk serves as a refuge for the fat white edible grub (*súmbe* [11]) of the palm beetle (*Calandra palmarum* Fabric.). The reddish colored prop-roots (racines palmiste) of this palm are cut, peeled and scraped, then split into two or three strands and utilized for the manufacture of shoulder carry-alls (*tídla*, literally « a basketry lattice or trellis-work »). The making of palm wine from this species has been

[11] Although the grub of the palm beetle is more frequent in this palm of the mountain forests, it also lives in the rotten boles of the coastal *ídiabe* (*Rhyticocos amara*). JACQUIN (33) also records the roasting of this « delicious » insect morsel, which is often eaten raw or roasted by the modern Carib.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

814 x

claimed (15). However, all recent palm wine has been derived from the glou-glou, *Acrocomia aculeata*. [273]

Specimen citation: 3255, 3494, 3675.

Geonoma dominicana L. H. Bailey, Gent. Herb. 4: 323. 1939.
Geonoma pinnatifrons var. *vaga* Burret, Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 63: 213. 1930.
Yanga.

A palm endemic to Dominica and occasional in mountain rain forests at middle elevations.

The leaves of this small reed-like palm constitute one of the Island Carib's best thatching materials, but the species is not plentiful. The petiole is notched below the leaf blade, and is hooked over the thatching rod; the leaves are then arranged layer above layer until the ridgepole is reached. [342]

Specimen citation: 307, 1987, 2787.

Geonoma hodgeorum L. H. Bailey ex Hodge, The Caribbean Forester 3: 108. 1942.
Yanga.

A small endemic palm found in mossy-forests at the summits of Dominica's highest peaks.

This species of yanga is similar in habit to the preceding species and may also be used for thatching. [342]

Specimen citation: 1430, 2835.

Rhyticocos amara (Jacquin) Beccari, Malph. 1: 350. t. 9. fig. 2. 1886.
Syagrus amara Martius Hist. Nat. Palm. 3 (1845) 291, t. 166, fig. 2.
Overtop Palm. — Coco Nain, Yattahou. — *ititaho*.

This coastal species is recorded in the Lesser Antilles from Montserrat to St. Lucia. In Dominica it occurs most abundantly along the windward coast.

The young plaited leaves of the Overtop Palm, like those of *Euterpe dominicana* are used by the Indians for thatch [12]. [342]

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[12] This was very likely the thatching material used in the coastal villages of the Caribs of Guadeloupe at the time of Columbus' second voyage. Chanca

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

[824] The « cabbage », though edible, is apparently not eaten by the Caribs, but in former days it was apparently tapped as a source [262 223] of a wine (7). The orange-colored fruits were used formerly in making a fermented drink; while the kernels, though rather bitter, [262] are often eaten by Carib children. The kernels were also made [386] into an oil which was mixed with the red color from the seeds of *Bixa orellana* to form body paint. The oil was probably extracted, as is coconut oil locally today, by grating and boiling the endo- [252] sperm of the nuts.

Specimen citation: 3361, 3699.

CYCLANTHACEAE. Cyclanthus Family.

Carludovica spp.

Z'Ailes Mouche, Langue Boeuf [of Breton (7)]. — *munustali* (« twin leaf »).

Two Lesser Antillean species of this genus — terrestrial *C. insignis* Duchass., and scandent *C. plumieri* Kunth (the latter is more common) — are found in the wet mountain rainforests of Dominica.

[342] Carib hunters often cover their temporary overnight shelters or ajoupas (*kabé* [13]) with the broad bifurcate leaves of these

records that the Indian houses were made of straw while Ybarra (69), commenting on this use, states that Chanca had made a mistake for (quoting Ybarra): « ... though the houses of the native Indians of the Antilles may have had the appearance of being built of straw, they were most exclusively made of the component parts of the Royal Palm (*Roystonea regia* Cook)... ». If any of the several species of Royal Palm was used as a source of thatch in the Lesser Antilles it was not the Cuban Royal Palm mentioned by Ybarra but rather the Caribbee Royal Palm, *Roystonea oleracea* (Jacq.) Cook. Although described originally from Barbados the natural range of this palm is still unknown. It may have occurred in Guadeloupe and Dominica and is found as an ornamental in Dominica today. It has not been seen by us in unquestionably natural sites nor in numbers suitable for large scale thatching. On the other hand the Overtop Palm is a native coastal palm of these isles and as such would have been more readily available to Indian villages than any other local thatch-yielding palm. However Chanca may have been correct as to straw construction, for the stems of roseau (*Gynerium*) were formerly employed by the Caribs in wattle-work (7).

[13] Kabé is the local pronunciation, carbet the conventional (French) spelling. *taburi*, or *kaburi* the Carib word for « shelter » or « hall ».

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 K

species of z'ailes mouche, which apparently were known as « langue boeuf » in the day of Breton (7). [342]

Specimen citation: 1599, 3249, 3664.

ARACEAE. ARUM FAMILY.

Anthurium palmatum (Linnaeus) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 3: 80. 1841. *mîbi* (generic for « bush-rope »).

« Hard » *mîbi*, as this species is called (as opposed to *Monstera pertusa* which is known as « soft » *mîbi*), is apparently known only from Dominica where it occurs as a common but weak liana on trunks of trees in moist forests at middle elevations and at lower elevations on the windward coast.

The aërial climbing and binding roots are used by the women for making spiral basketry. After scraping them to remove the cortex, the roots are either dyed yellow by rubbing with a tuber of saffran (*Curcuma longa*) or mauve by rubbing with the moistened leaves of the tree known as tan (*Picramnia pentandra*). From the scraping of the bark of *mîbi* together with those from the bottom of the conch shell (patois: lambi; Carib *wôtabwi*) a concoction was formerly made to be taken as a cure for yaws (Carib: *yáya*, « prickle »). [285] [386] [278]

Specimen citation: 36 (T), 3205, 3248.

Caladium bicolor (Aiton) Ventenat, Descr. Cels. t. 30. 1800. Dasheen Marbré, Hale Bois.

An American species of uncertain origin but believed to be a native of Amazonia or the Guianas. It is much cultivated as an ornamental for its beautiful leaves. [247]

This arum is esteemed as a yard or house plant in Dominica and frequently escapes.

The Caribs use the heated rhizome as a poultice for extracting splinters. [278 752]

Specimen citation: 1573.

Colocasia esculenta (Linnaeus) Schott, Melet. 1: 18. 1832. *Caladium colocasia* W. F. Wight in Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 9: 206. 1905.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

133
137
[342]

Fig. 10

[49]

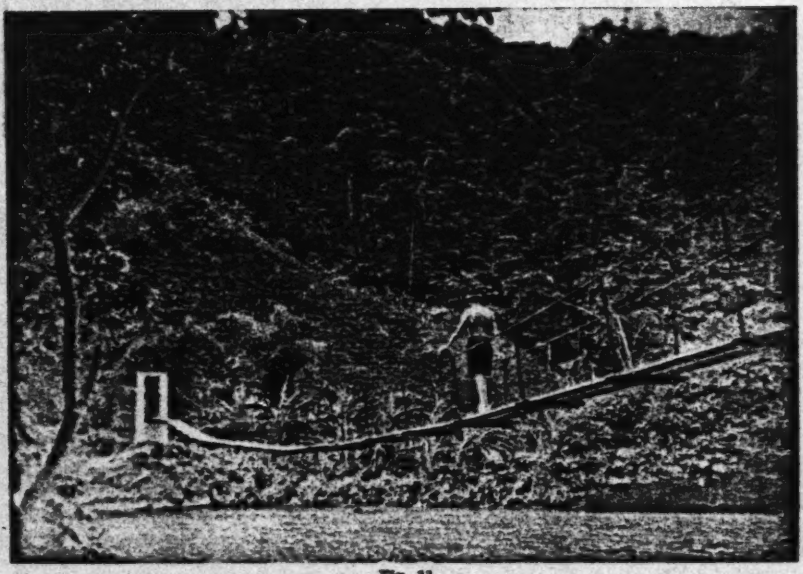

Fig. 11

Contemporary Carib sites and landscapes in Dominica. — Fig. 10 – Carib frame dwellings near the Crayfish River in the Reserve. — Fig. 11 – Footbridges over the Pegous River near its mouth.

[opposite p. 539]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824K

An acaulescent herb widely distributed in the West Indies and tropical South America. The plant is to be found in Dominica on open grassy slopes at lower elevations.

The tunicated bulbs are said to be eaten by the older generation presumably as we do those of onions. Also, a decoction made from the bulb is taken by women at the time of their menopause or to relieve painful or irregular menstruation.

Specimen citation: 3 (T), 3188.

Trimezia martinicensis (Jacquin) Herbert, Bot. Reg. 30. misc. 88. 1844.

Cipura martinicensis Kunth, Nov. Gen. & Sp. 1 (1816) 321.

Coco Chat.

This little yellow flower is to be found on grassy slopes throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The corms of this species possess an acrid yellow juice. They are grated by the Carib and mixed with other unknown ingredients. This mixture is then kept by an individual on his person as a charm to ensure success if he gets into a fight.

Specimen citation: 3304.

MUSACEAE. Banana Family.

Heliconia bihai Linnaeus Mant. 2: 211. 1771.

Bihai bihai Griggs in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 31: 445. (1904). as to source of name only.

Wild Plantain. — Balisier. — *balíri*. (cf. *balúru*).

This species with bicolored bracts is probably to be found throughout the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it occurs, often in colonies, on wet open slopes or along streambanks at middle and higher elevations.

Balisier leaves are used by the Caribs to cover temporary shelters in the woods (ajoupas), as waterproof lining material between the inner and outer layer of certain basket types (larouman paniers) in areas where cachibou (*Calathea lutea*) is not available, and as a « paper » substitute to wrap up fish, game, etc. Leaves of balisier are also utilized to wrap up, *a*) fish for roasting

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

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[273]
[342]

Fig. 15

Fig. 16

[285]

Fig. 17

Fig. 18

Dominica Carib plants, a trio of palms. — Fig. 15 – The glou-glou, *Acrocomia aculeata*, formerly utilized as a «wine» palm by the Caribs, with some of its edible fruits (insert). — Fig. 16 – Specimens of a species of yanga, *Geonoma hedgeorum*, typical of a thatch-yielding palm, from Morne Trois Pitons. — Fig. 17 – Flowering stalks and edible heart or «cabbage» (center) of the Dominica palmiste, *Euterpe dominicana*. — Fig. 18 – Prop roots (racines palmiste) of the Dominica palmiste, used in the weaving of shoulder baskets.

[opposite p. 547]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824 **Calathea lutea** (Aublet) G. F. W. Meyer, Primit. Fl. Essequeb. 10. 1818.

Calathea discolor G. F. W. Meyer, loc. cit. 7.

Cachibou. — *kasíbu* (« sharp-pointed »).

This lowland species ranges in rainforest areas in the West Indies from Puerto Rico to Trinidad, also throughout Central America and into Amazonian South America. Cachibou is infrequent in Dominica because of the lack of good growing sites, but it forms as elsewhere small colonies along river banks.

[342] Cachibou possesses one of the most durable leaves used by the Caribs for thatch, and its employment for this purpose was noted many years ago by JACQUIN (33). The leaves are exposed to the sun after cutting until they close, when they are folded lengthwise and tied with lianas over a split roseau (*Gynerium sagittatum*) stem which is used as a thatching-rod. When completed the leaves overlap one another forming thick layers, and so produce a tile-like appearance. The waxy leaves of cachibou serve to render [285] Carib baskets (paniers) water-proof; waterproofing is accomplished by placing layers of leaves as a lining between the inner and outer component parts of the paniers. The petioles are also dried and split and used like roseau or larouman in Carib basketry.

Specimen citation: 3329, 3505.

Ischnosiphon arouma (Aublet) Koernicke, Bull. Soc. Nat. Moscow 35: 88. 1862.

Larouman. — *dítkuno*, *dtikú* (m), *ualúma*, *uarúma*, *udkakú* (w).

A species found in the Lesser Antilles as far north as Guadeloupe and on the South American continent south to the Amazon, a range coinciding very well, at least in the Antilles, with the earlier concentrations of Carib tribes. Larouman possibly was brought to the Antilles by the Island Carib. In Dominica larouman occurs in wet ravines or forest glades and along shaded river banks at lower and middle elevations in what often appears to be a semicultivated state.

In the Guianas this plant is known to the Indians as *mokru*, *mukru*, and *itiriti*, and its preparation for and uses in basketry [285] are very similar to those described below. Larouman is one of the most important basketry plants of the Island Caribs, and

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Timber of bois dinble is used by the Indians for posts, sole-plates, etc., while the wood is considered to be the best in Dominica for the manufacture of charcoal, the principal kitchen fuel of the island. The pounded wood is also employed by the Carib as a wick in torches made of the gum from the gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*). 824x [342] [372] 373

Specimen citation: 578, 1237, 2067, 2672.

LEGUMINOSAE. Pulse Family.

Andira inermis (Wright) Humboldt, Bonpland, and Kunth, Nov. Gen. 6: 385. 1823.

Andira jamaicensis Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 298. (1905).

Bastard Mahogany. — Angelin, L'Angelin. — *uakábu* (« house-post »).

This species of tree is found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America, and in Dominica occurs at lower to middle elevations.

The hard, red-brown wood of angelin is very durable and is used by the inhabitants of Dominica, Caribs included, for posts, boards and all types of heavy constructional work. [313]

Specimen citation: 3332.

Arachis hypogaea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 741. 1753.

Peanut. — Pistache. — *māli* (cf. Tupi *mandubi*).

The peanut is widely cultivated in the warm temperate and tropical regions of the earth. Although earlier writers believed in an Old World origin this American species is probably indigenous to Brazil, but was also known in pre-Columbian times by the ancient Peruvians (1) (11).

Caribs eat the seeds either raw or roasted, and an oil is also prepared by grinding. Raw seeds are considered to possess aphrodisiacal properties. The pistache is also an ingredient in a ritual bath described under *Ocimum micranthum*. [262] [832] [755]

Specimen citation: 3328.

Cassia alata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 378. 1753.

Herpetica alata Rafinesque, Sylva Tell. 123. 1838.

Ringworm Shrub (18). — Desay.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 824
[342]
[285]

Fig. 19

Fig. 20

[415
285]
[415]

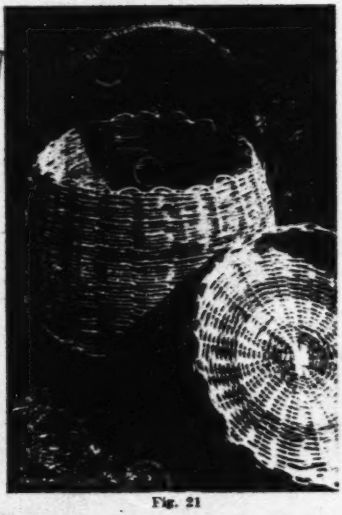

Fig. 21

Fig. 22

Dominica Carib plants. — Fig. 19 – *Carludorica plumieri*, whose leaves serve as a temporary thatch. — Fig. 20 – A plant of *mibi*, *Anthurium palmatum*, showing the aerial binding roots utilized in the weaving of spiral baskets. — Fig. 21 – A spiral basket woven from *mibi* roots. It has been colored yellow and mauve with the local vegetable dyes, « saffran » (*Curcuma*) and « tan » (*Pieramnia*). — Fig. 22 – The common balisier, *Heliconia caribaea*, whose utilitarian leaves (above left) are used as thatch, in basketry, and as a common wrapping medium.

[Opposite p. 562]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Several species of *Lonchocarpus*, including *L. benthamianus* Pittier and *L. latifolius* (Willd.) H. B. K., occur on the drier coastal slopes of Dominica.

It has been shown that rotenone is a constituent of the roots of various species of this genus, and because this crystalline compound is toxic to fish, roots of *Lonchocarpus* have been used as a drug by many Indian tribes of South America, including the Barama River Caribs of Guiana.

The bark of the roots of savonette is crushed by the Island Carib and is employed as a fish poison.

Specimen citation: 614 (*L. benthamianus*).

Mimosa pudica Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 518. 1753.

Sensitive Plant. — Honteuse. — *búsu nebéneme* (from Fr. *bon jour* plus *nebénese* « my sponsor »).

This species, widely distributed in the West Indies and continental tropical America, has also become naturalized in Australasia and tropical Asia. In Dominica the plant is to be found on grassy banks and waste places at lower and middle elevations.

Honteuse is a Carib « charm » plant, the use of which is described under *Petiveria alliacea*. See also another use discussed under *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 616.

Ormosia monosperma (Swartz) Urban, Symb. Ant. 1: 321. 1899.

Ormosia darycarpa Jackson, Trans. Linn. Soc. 10: 358. 1811.

Caconier.

A large Antillean tree recorded from Guadeloupe and Dominica.

The coarse-grained, hard wood of caconier is used by Carib and Creole alike for shingles and general building purposes.

Specimen citation: 2037, 3264.

Phaseolus vulgaris Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 723. 1753.

Kidney Bean. — *makáti*.

A native plant of tropical America widely cultivated by the natives of both North and South America at the time of the Discovery. Loven records this species as one of the culture plants of the Tainos (37).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Timber from young specimens is used by the Caribs for making masts for dugout canoes, while the buttresses (« wings ») of old trunks are employed for fashioning paddles. The fruit is edible and is frequently used by Indian hunters.

Specimen citation: 25 (T), 1322.

EUPHORBIACEAE. Spurge Family.

Amanoa caribaea Krug & Urban, Notizbl. Berl. Bot. Gard. 1 (10): 326. 1897.

Carapite [22].

This large tree is apparently limited to the mountain rainforests of Guadeloupe and Dominica.

The purplish black wood of carapite is filled with white flecks or deposits, and is so exceedingly hard and heavy that it lasts well in the ground or when exposed to moisture. The Caribs appreciate its durability, and consequently often utilize it for housepiles, etc.

Specimen citation: 1326, 1889.

Euphorbia hypericifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 454. 1753.

Chamaesyce hypericifolia Millspaugh, Field Mus. Bot. 2: 302. 1909.

Mal Nommé, Mal Dormi. — *ákuliárani* (« eye medicine »), *alákuali áku lii*.

A common annual weed found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

An infusion made by the Caribs from this plant is taken to lessen uterine pains; the same type of infusion or the expressed juice is used in sore eyes or to cure a sty in the eye, etc.

Specimen citation: 563, 564, 3039.

Hippomane mancinella Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1191. 1753.

Manchineel, Majini (from the Spanish: manzanilla, « little apple »). — *balaúbukuru* (« sea-venom »).

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[22] Not to be confused with (bois) carapate (*Carapa guianensis*) or carapate (*Ricinis communis*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X824 A medium sized tree recorded from Jamaica and Puerto Rico, and in the Caribbees from Montserrat to St. Vincent.

[342] Aconquoi possesses a hard, dense, fine-grained, deep yellow wood which is said to be very durable and which is used by the Caribs to make forked supporting posts for the primitive dwellings [223] known as *ouvéa*. This species is known as a « hunter's tree », for the yellow pulp of the fruits is eaten by game birds [44].

[278] An early use of a tree call *aokaboa* is recorded by BRETON (7) who states that a decoction of the bitter bark was employed for washing and healing sores. The bark of *Antirrhoea* contains just such a bitter principle and since the present Carib name suggests Breton's *aokaboa*, the two names may well refer to this same species.

Specimen citation : 100 (T).

Borreria laevis (Lamarck) Griesbach, Fl. Br. W. I. 349. 1861. Zeb (Herbe) Akwe.

This species is a weedy herb of tropical America and is common along roadsides and in waste places in Dominica.

[278] A tea is made from zeb akwe and this is employed by the Carib in the treatment of colds.

Specimen citation : 3372.

Chimarrhis cymosa Jacquin, Sel. Stirp. Am. Hist. 61. 1763. Bois Rivière.

A tree, recorded from Cuba, Jamaica, and certain of the Lesser Antilles. Bois Rivière is a common species in Dominica particularly at middle elevations.

[313] The wood of this species has an unusual yellow hue. It is used for boards by the Caribs and Creoles.

Specimen citation : 695.

Chiococca alba (Linnaeus) Hitchcock, Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 4 : 94. 1893.

Chiococca racemosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 917. 1759.

West Indian Snowberry. — Branda.

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[44] See footnote 34.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824X
285

Coccoloba uvifera (L.) Jacq.	Polygonaceae
Cocothrinax martiniocensis Becc.	Palmae
Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey	Palmae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Graminese
Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
Ischnosiphon arouma (Aubl.) Koern.	Marantaceae
Monstera pertusa (L.) de Vriese	Araceae
Pandanus utilis Bory	Pandanaceae
Passiflora laurifolia L.	Passifloraceae
Philodendron oxycardium Schott	Araceae
Picramnia pentandra Sw.	Simaroubaceae
Vetiveria zizanioides (L.) Nash.	Graminese

Plant source of materials used in Building or Construction

824X
342

Amanoa caribaea Kr. & Urb.	Euphorbiaceae
Andira inermis H. B. K.	Leguminosae
Antirrhoea coriacea (Vahl) Urb.	Rubiaceae
Bursera simaruba (L.) Sarg.	Burseraceae
Byrsonima spicata (Cav.) DC.	Malphigiaceae
Calophyllum antillanum Britton	Guttiferae
Carapa guianensis Aubl.	Meliaceae
Chimarrhis cymosa Jacq.	Rubiaceae
Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
Guatteria caribaea Urb.	Annonaceae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Graminese
Licania ternatensis Hook. f.	Rosaceae
Manilkara nitida (Sesse & Moc.) Dub.	Sapotaceae
Mastichodendron foetidissimum (Jacq.) Lam.	Sapotaceae
Melioma herbertii Rolfe	Sabiaceae
Ocotea sp.	Lauraceae
Ormosia monosperma (Sw.) Urb.	Leguminosae
Oxythece fabrilis Pierre	Sapotaceae
Pithecellobium jupunba (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae
Richeria grandis Vahl	Euphorbiaceae
Simaruba amara Aubl.	Simaroubaceae
Stigmaphyllon puberum (L. C. Rich.) A. Juss.	Malphigiaceae
Symphonia globulifera L. f.	Guttiferae
Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers	Bignoniaceae
Terminalia catappa L.	Combretaceae
Tovomita plumieri Griseb.	Guttiferae
Vitex divaricata Sw.	Verbenaceae

Plant sources of materials used in Canoe Construction

824X
396

Carapa guianensis Aubl.	Meliaceae
Cecropia peltata L.	Moraceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Passiflora anderssonii DC.	Passifloraceae
Passiflora foetida L.	Passifloraceae
Passiflora rubra L.	Passifloraceae
Peperomia pellucida (L.) H. B. K.	Piperaceae
Petiveria alliacea L.	Phytolaccaceae
Petrea kohautiana Presl	Verbenaceae
Phyllanthus spp.	Euphorbiaceae
Picrasma antillana Urb.	Simaroubaceae
Pimenta racemosa (Miller) L. W. Moore	Myrtaceae
Piper aequale Vahl	Piperaceae
Piper dilatatum L. C. Rich	Piperaceae
Pitcairnia gracilis Mez	Bromeliaceae
Pitcairnia spicata (Lam.) Mez var. sulphurea (Andrews) Mez	Bromeliaceae
Phytolacca rivinoides Kth. & Bouché	Phytolaccaceae
Piper spp.	Piperaceae
Pithecellobium jupunba (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae
Plantago major L.	Plantaginaceae
Polygala paniculata L.	Polygalaceae
Portulaca oleracea L.	Portulacaceae
Pothomorphe peltata (L.) Miq.	Piperaceae
Psidium guajava L.	Myrtaceae
Psittacanthus martinicensis (Presl.) Eichler	Loranthaceae
Rheedia lateriflora L.	Guttiferae
Richeria grandis Vahl	Euphorbiaceae
Ricinus communis L.	Euphorbiaceae
Rivina humilis L.	Phytolaccaceae
Rolandra fruticosa (L.) O. Ktze.	Compositae
Sambucus simpsoni Rehder	Caprifoliaceae
Sapindus saponaria L.	Sapindaceae
Scoparia dulcis L.	Scrophulariaceae
Smilax guianensis Vitm.	Liliaceae
Solanum torvum Sw.	Solanaceae
Spondias mombin L.	Anacardiaceae
Stachytarpheta cayennensis (L. C. Rich.) Vahl	Verbenaceae
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (L.) Vahl	Verbenaceae
Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers	Bignoniaceae
Tabernaemontana citrifolia L.	Apocynaceae
Tournefortia bicolor Sw.	Boraginaceae
Trimezia martinicensis (Jacq.) Herb.	Iridaceae
Urena lobata L.	Malvaceae
Urena sinuata L.	Malvaceae
Vitex divaricata Sw.	Verbenaceae
Wedelia trilobata (L.) Hitchc.	Compositae
Xanthosoma sp.	Araceae
Zea mays L.	Gramineae

Plant sources of Thatch

Andropogon bicornis L.	Gramineae
Calathea lutea (Aubl.) G. F. W. Mey.	Marantaceae
Carludovica insignis Durham.	Cyclanthaceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Carludovica plumieri H. B. K.	Cyclanthaceae
Coccothrinax martinicensis Becc.	Palmae
Cocos nucifera L.	Palmae
Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey	Palmae
Geonoma dominicana L. H. Bailey	Palmae
Geonoma hodgeorum L. H. Bailey	Palmae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Gramineae
Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
Pandanus utilis Bory	Pandanaceae
Rhyticocos amara (Jacq.) Becc.	Palmae

Plant sources of Miscellaneous Materials

Acrocomia aculeata (Jacq.) Lodd.	Palmae
Aegiphila martinicensis Jacq.	Verbenaceae
Andropogon bicornis L.	Gramineae
Artocarpus altilis (Park.) Fosb.	Moraceae
Bixa orellana L.	Bixaceae
Bourreria succulenta Jacq.	Boraginaceae
Brunfelsia americana L.	Solanaceae
Bursera simaruba (L.) Sarg.	Burseraceae
Carapa guianensis Aubl.	Meliaceae
Carica papaya L.	Caricaceae
Ceiba pentandra (L.) Gaertn.	Bombacaceae
Chrysobalanus icaco L.	Rosaceae
Clusia plukenetii Urb.	Guttiferae
Coccothrinax martinicensis Becc.	Palmae
Cocos nucifera L.	Palmae
Crescentia cujete L.	Bignoniaceae
Cyathea arborea (L.) J. E. Sm.	Cyatheaceae
Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
Dichromena ciliata Vahl	Cyperaceae
Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacq.) Schott.	Araceae
Enallagma latifolia (Mill.) Small	Bignoniaceae
Erithalis fruticosa L.	Rubiaceae
Guatteria caribaea Urb.	Annonaceae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Gramineae
Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
Hibiscus esculentus L.	Malvaceae
Hippomane mancinella L.	Euphorbiaceae
Hyptis atrorubens Poit.	Labiatae
Licania ternatensis Hook. f.	Leguminosae
Musa paradisiaca L.	Musaceae
Musa paradisiaca L. subsp. sapientum (L.) O. Ktze.	Musaceae
Nicotiana tabacum L.	Solanaceae
Ochroma pyramidale (Cav.) Urb.	Bombacaceae
Pimenta racemosa (Mill.) J. W. Moore	Myrtaceae